

17 October 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Presidential Priorities Group,  
11 October 1977

1. Mr. Bowie chaired the meeting, which was attended by Dr. Stevens and Mr. Lehman, CIA; Mr. Saunders, State; Mr. Bergsten and Mrs. Collins, Treasury; Mr. Bader, OSD; Lt. Gen. Smith, JCS; and Mr. Hoskinson, NSC.
2. The Group agreed that a two-list approach to setting Presidential Priorities is in order. List A would contain subjects on which policy makers expect the Intelligence Community to maintain a capability to be called upon as required. The PRC(I) might bless List A essentially as presented, though it would add to and delete from the list when major shifts in emphasis occur.
3. List B would contain topics which policy makers wish the Intelligence Community to address in the next six to nine months. The Group views its own List B essentially as a device to stimulate policy makers to define just which issues should be included in final List B.
4. The Group was agreed that List B, particularly, would not be considered a restraint on bringing to policy makers' attention matters that deserved their attention, but about which they have not expressed interest.
5. The Group recognized that the PRC(I) should not attempt to do more than define what information it wishes. It will remain for the intelligence agencies to refine Lists A and B into tasking for the producers of finished intelligence estimates and assessments, for program managers who must establish and nourish intelligence capabilities, and for the collectors of intelligence.
6. Lt. Gen. Smith asked Mr. Bowie if a link was envisaged between Lists A and B and resource issues. Mr. Bowie responded that he thought the DCI might, from time to time, report to the PRC(I) on the resource implications of its information requests. Mr. Bowie saw the process as one of mutual education.

7. Messrs. Saunders and Stevens recommended that List B, particularly, be expressed in the form of questions. Mr. Saunders has converted List A into a series of questions, which he distributed. Mr. Bowie invited all members of the Group to make similar contributions, especially for List B, preferably prior to the Group's next meeting.

8. Mr. Saunders distributed a list of suggested additions to List B. Treasury had previously suggested additions to both lists, which were also distributed at the meeting.



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